

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00147 241717Z
ACTION ACDA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0147

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: MARCH 24 WESTERN PLENARY
STATEMENT

AT THE 131ST PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS HELD
ON MARCH 24 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF POLISH REP (DABROWA),
THE UK REP (BOLLAND) DELIVERED THE ONLY FORMAL STATEMENT.
HIS PRESENTATION DEMONSTRATED THAT THE WESTERN APPROACH TO
REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS CONFORMED TO THE AGREED GOALS OF
THE NEGOTIATIONS IN CONTRAST WITH THE INADEQUACIES IN THIS
REGARD OF EASTERN PROPOSALS. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE UK
STATEMENT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

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PAGE 02 MBFR V 00147 241717Z

1. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS ARE COMMITTED TO EARLY PROGRESS
IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SUCCESS IN VIENNA
WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO IMPROVED EAST-WEST RELATIONS GENERALLY.
2. THE AGREED GOALS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE TO ENHANCE
STABILITY AND STRENGTHEN PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE,
WHILE LEAVING UNDIMINISHED THE SECURITY OF ALL PARTICIPANTS.

3. MEASURED AGAINST THESE GOALS, EASTERN PROPOSALS ARE DEMONSTRABLY DEFICIENT, NOTABLY BECAUSE THE EASTERN REQUIREMENT FOR EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS WOULD CONTRACTUALIZE EXISTING FORCE DISPARITIES FAVORING THE EAST AND REINFORCE THE EAST'S GEOGRAPHICAL ADVANTAGES, THEREBY LEADING TO AN EVEN MORE UNSTABLE SITUATION IN THE AREA.

4. SUCH REDUCTIONS WOULD NOT DIMINISH THE CRUCIAL DISPARITIES FAVORING THE EAST IN GROUND FORCE MANPOWER AND MAIN BATTLE TANKS - DISPARITIES WHICH CANNOT BE ALTERED BY UNILATERAL ASSERTIONS THAT THEY DO NOT EXIST.

5. EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS WOULD FURTHER CONTRACTUALIZE THE EAST'S EXISTING NUMERICAL ADVANTAGES IN MOST OTHER MAJOR ARMAMENTS.

6. EASTERN PROPOSALS WOULD ALSO IMPOSE NATIONAL CEILINGS WHICH ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE WEST AS THEY WOULD INTERFERE WITH NATO'S INTEGRATED DEFENSE AND PREJUDICE THE FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF WESTERN EUROPEAN DEFENSE.

7. THE EASTERN DISBANDMENT PROPOSAL, WHICH IN ITSELF HAS NOT MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE, FAILS TO MEET THE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF THE FLANK STATES.

8. THE EAST HAS SO FAR NOT EVEN ADDRESSED THE TOPIC OF ASSOCIATED MEASURES DESPITE THE FACT THAT SUCH MEASURES CONSTITUTE A NECESSARY ADJUNCT TO ANY AGREEMENT.
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PAGE 03 MBFR V 00147 241717Z

9. AS FOR WESTERN PROPOSALS, THE OUTCOME OF APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES ENVISAGED IN THEM WOULD CLEARLY RESULT IN STRENGTHENED PEACE AND SECURITY IN EUROPE.

10. IN DECEMBER 1975, IN ORDER TO BREAK THE IMPASSE IN THE TALKS, THE WEST OFFERED TO REDUCE AND LIMIT SELECTED US NUCLEAR ELEMENTS AND TO INCLUDE AIR MANPOWER UNDER A COMBINED COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING.

11. THIS MIXED-PACKAGE APPROACH PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR AN AGREEMENT WHICH RELISTICALLY TAKES ACCOUNT OF THE PRINCIPAL CONCERNS OF BOTH SIDES AND PROVIDES A WORKABLE SOLUTION TO THE COMPLEX PROBLEMS OF ARMAMENTS REDUCTIONS.

12. THE WESTERN APPROACH SAFEGUARDS JOINT DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS BY PROVIDING FOR COLLECTIVE CEILINGS.

13. FINALLY, WESTERN PROPOSALS PROVIDE FOR FLANK SECURITY

AND ALSO MEET THE NEED FOR ASSOCIATED MEASURES.

14. MEANWHILE, THE EAST HAS MADE NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE
IN THE PROPOSALS IT HAS ADVOCATED FROM THE OUTSET, THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH WOULD CONTRACTUALIZE EXISTING EASTERN
FORCE SUPERIORITIES AND LEAD TO AN OUTCOME WHOLLY UNACCEPTABLE
TO THE WEST.

15. DESPITE THE FACT THAT THEY PROVIDE THE FRAMEWORK FOR A MUTUALLY
ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT IN CONFORMITY WITH AGREED GOALS, THE EAST
HAS FAILED TO RESPOND TO THE DECEMBER 1975 WESTERN PROPOSALS
IN A SERIOUS AND POSITIVE WAY. RESOR

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